GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:334
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2016
Under-utilisation of Funds under SBM
Diwakar Shri Rajesh Kumar

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) is being implemented at a slower pace in some States and as a result they have not fully utilized the funds allocated/released under the Scheme and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have urged these States to fully utilize the funds released under the Scheme and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Union Government have taken steps to monitor the pace of implementation of the Scheme in the States and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *334 for 08.12.2016.

(a) The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) (SBM (G)) has an overall goal to achieve Swachh Bharat by 2nd October, 2019. The programme focuses on behaviour change and engagement of communities. These processes take time, and therefore, progress of the programme in different States is variable. The factors that influence progress include the baseline status of sanitation in the State, skills to facilitate community processes, overall implementation capacities, use of flexibility and innovations to address social and technical challenges. Based on these factors, each State prepares an Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) delineating expected outcomes during the year. The programme is however, demand-driven, and there are no fixed targets to be achieved. State/UT-wise, Opening balance, Central share released and utilised during the last 2 years and the current year under SBM(G) as per the information on the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the SBM(G) is at Annexure-1.

(b) Yes Sir. The Union government regularly coordinates with and guides States to utilize the available funds. This is done by boosting the implementation capacities of States through a host of measures that include:
â€¢ Focus on behavior change: Community based collective behavior change has been mentioned as the preferred approach, although the States are free to choose the approach best suited to them. Focus is also on creation of complete open defecation free (ODF) villages, rather than only on construction of individual toilets. This entails triggering the entire village into changing their behavior rather than dealing individually with beneficiaries.
â€¢ The programme provides flexibility to the States in the implementation. This is essential, given the vast socio-economic-cultural

diversity of India, and also from the point of view of promoting innovations.
â€¢ There is a greater emphasis on capacity building, especially in community approaches and programme management. Lack of adequate capacities is a major challenge in scaling up the programme. Therefore, various initiatives are being taken to reach out to all the stakeholders. From the Government of India side, the States and select organizations (called Key Resource Centres) are being trained. These in turn are, carrying out trainings at the sub-State level. The key official at the district level-Collector-has been roped in the programme to provide leadership at the district level. They are being exposed to best practices, both through workshops and exposure visits. More than 450 Collectors from across the country have been trained. In order to provide exposure to officers at their entry level itself, a training module has been developed for LBSNAA, Mussoorie. The IAS and other Group A probationers are being given training for better implementation of SBM(G), including 'triggering' behavior change in communities.
â€¢ The programme is being run as a janandolan with cooperation of all sections of the society including the NGOs, Corporates, youth etc. The Panchayats are being actively involved.
â€¢ There is an emphasis on streamlining administrative and financial procedures, both to cut down on time, as well as to increase accountability.
â€¢ Innovations in technology is being promoted at the National and State levels. There is a National Committee under Prof. R.M. Mashelkar that examines all new technologies from the point of view of safety and feasibility.
â€¢ Sanitation is being prioritized amongst the overall development agenda. The Government has taken a decision to prioritise all Centrally Sponsored Schemes in ODF villages. Various other development schemes are being converged with the sanitation outcomes.

(c) Yes Sir. Monitoring and Evaluation has been strengthened to effectively monitor pace of the programme. The Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the SBM(G) has data up to household level, with provision to capture geo-tagged photographs of toilets. A Swachhta App has been developed that provides online information on sanitation status up to household level. The citizens can also do ranking of swachhta on the Swachh App. In addition, field visits to States/districts are undertaken regularly by senior officials. Regular review meetings and Video Conferences are also organized to review the programme and to sort-out problems faced by them in implementation.